

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 COME-00 LAB-04

SIL-01 AGR-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04

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R 181509Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR SPRUCE, NEW DELHI FOR US TEXTILE TEAM

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PO

SUBJECT: TEXTILES

1. US TEXTILE OFFICIALS CALLED IN POLISH COMMERCIAL ATTACHE ANDRZEJ WERNER ON AUGUST 13 TO DISCUSS US-POLISH TEXTILE TRADE IN CERTAIN WOOL AND MAN-MADE FIBER TEXTILE PRODUCTS.

2. US OFFICIAL NOTED THAT US-GOP BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT COVERS ONLY COTTON TEXTILES AND TEXTILE PRODUCTS. POLAND HAS ALSO RECENTLY BEEN INCREASING SHIPMENTS OF MAN-MADE FIBER KNIT SHIRTS AND BLOUSES,
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AND OF MENS AND BOYS WOOL AND WOOL BLEND SUITS.

3. US OFFICIAL THEN STATED THAT OVERALL US IMPORTS OF ABOVE - NOTED SHIRTS AND SUITS HAVE BEEN GROWING RAPIDLY, AND THAT THESE CATEGORIES ARE SENSITIVE IN THE DOMESTIC MARKET. HE SAID THAT WE ARE CONTACTING MAJOR UNCONTROLLED SUPPLIERS OF THESE PRODUCTS TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN LIMITS OR OTHER TYPES OF ASSURANCES TO LIMIT FURTHER GROWTH IN IMPORTS OF THESE PRODUCTS. HE STATED THAT WE WERE NOT RPT NOT REQUESTING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GOP AT THIS TIME, BUT BELIEVED THE GOP SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE ACTIONS WE ARE TAKING ON THESE CATEGORIES.

HE NOTED THAT IF IN THE FUTURE, POLISH EXPORTS IN THESE SENSITIVE CATEGORIES SHOULD INCREASE SHARPLY, THE US MIGHT WISH TO CONSULT WITH THE GOP WITH A VIEW TO PREVENTING FURTHER UNRESTRAINED GROWTH. FYI: WE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT EXPECT TO REQUEST CONSULTATIONS IF POLISH SHIPMENTS CONTINUE AT THEIR PRESENT RATE. END FYI.

4. AS A POINT OF COMPARISON, US OFFICIAL NOTED THAT WE HAVE REQUESTED HONG KONG TO CEASE ISSUANCE OF EXPORT AUTHORIZATIONS FOR WOOL SUITS AT A LEVEL OF 59,131 UNITS FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1976, AND HAVE REQUESTED CONSULTATIONS WITH ROMANIA, WHOSE EXPORTS OF WOOL SUITS TO THE US TOTALED 53,230 UNITS FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE, 1976. POLISH EXPORTS OF WOOL SUITS TO THE US TOTALED 33,151 UNITS FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 1976.

5. WERNER CONFIRMED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE US WAS ONLY ADVISING THE GOP OF ITS POSITION AND NOT REQUESTING CONSULTATIONS AT THIS TIME. HE STATED HE WOULD REPORT THE TALKS TO HIS GOVERNMENT. WERNER INDICATED THAT THERE WERE FEW PRODUCTS WHICH POLAND HAS BEEN ABLE TO SELL TO THE US, AND THEREFORE ANY FUTURE RESTRAINT WOULD POSE DIFFICULTIES FOR THE GOP. HE SAID, HOWEVER, HE APPRECIATED OUR NOTIFICATION BEFORE THE STAGE AT WHICH CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE REQUIRED.

6. WERNER ALSO NOTED HIS OBSERVATION THAT THE COMPETITIVE POSITION OF US TEXTILES VERSUS IMPORTS APPEARED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO HAVE IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY SINCE INCEPTION OF THE ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES. KISSINGER

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